

Consul Stowe, who some months was sent upon an inspection of consular offices in South Africa, denied the reports that he has given instructions to advise Americans to remain neutral. It is outside Mr. Stowe's authority to advise in case of trouble deepening and, no doubt such will be course pursued by him, there is a large number of Americans in the Transvaal and the value of property considerable.

The Gratitude of Snakes.—Here is the latest snake story, told by a stern man: "One day, some thirty odd years ago, while out tramping in the woods near Kickapoo Creek, I found a large rattlesnake lying torpid. It was a cold day and I passed him by, noticing he had nine rattles. Soon afterward I went to California, and returning eighteen years later, took an early occasion to go on my little hunt. Passing by the place as before, I ran upon the snake again, much larger and with twenty-seven rattles, which I concluded was the same one I had seen on my previous trip. It was a cold day, and his majesty was stiff with cold. I gathered him up and took him home and thawed him out. He became a great pet and made himself at home in around the house. I lived in the suburbs of the town, and one night when I had left the doors open, I was awakened by unusual noise. I found a burglar had entered the house and that the snake had coiled himself partly around the bedpost and partly around the burglar, and had his mouth out of the window rattling for police. This case shows that snakes are not devoid of gratitude."

Of the more than fifty naval vessels now being built in the great American shipyards, several are for foreign countries. American builders are beginning to have orders for great iron freight ships, some of which have the biggest tonnage afloat. In a little while our country will be fitted with a fleet of dry docks. The Eastern people tell us that one at Newport News, Va., will accommodate simultaneously two big warships, and others have been designed on a scale that will surpass anything ever seen in the world's seaports. This is one of the indirect results of the war with Spain. It is one of the indirect results of the battles of Manila bay and of Santiago. If men go to mining and one gets a bonanza and the other gets mineral in paying quantities, the opinion of the first will be greatly prized, while the opinion of the second would be discounted. It is so with nations. Had our country been whipped at Manila or

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